



## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting Held**

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

2:00 pm

Clean Care of New England, Inc.

850 Wellington Avenue

Cranston, RI 02910

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice Chairman Peter Gaynor, Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, at approximately 2:05 p.m.

### **Attendance:**

Lieutenant Governor Daniel J. McKee  
Peter Gaynor, RIEMA Director

Catherine Avila	RIEMA
Joseph Baker	Dept. of Transportation
James Ball	Dept. of Environmental Management, HazMat Division
Kevin Barry	Rhode Island State Police
Michael Borg	Providence Emergency Management Agency
Sue Earley	Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
Kenneth Filarski	Filarski Architecture & Planning & Research
Steven Florio	RI Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Barbara Goodrich	Lt. Governor's Office
Michael Hogan	RIEMA
Vladimir Ibarra	PEMA
Erin Lambie	U.S. Coast Guard
James Lanni	Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
Dawn Lewis	Hospital Association of Rhode Island
Lawrence Macedo	RIEMA
Elizabeth McDonald	American Red Cross
Erin McDonough	RI DMAT, Inc.
Alysia Mihalakos	RI Dept. of Health
Lori Needham	RI Broadcasting Association
Brian Pires	U.S. Dept. of Justice
Tim Rondeau	National Grid

Gregory Scungio  
Anthony Silva  
Pamela Leary

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Lt. Governor's Office  
RIEMA

It was so noted that a quorum had not been met at this meeting.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015, meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

Director Gaynor suspended Committee Reports to allow time to further review the Council realignment plan including an in-depth PowerPoint presentation geared toward supporting the mission of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and getting back to basics. The RIEMA Strategic Plan 2015-2020 was made available to the council.

To become more efficient, EMAC will establish six working groups: Preparedness, Mitigation, Response, Recovery, Special Projects and Regionalization. Director Gaynor asked members to sign up for any committee they want to be a part of, noting that members may focus on a new committee area as well as continue to serve on one they have sat on previously. The Special Projects working group's issues and tasks will develop as the year progresses, and the Regionalization working group will support the efforts of the Lt. Governor's office. The criteria for these working groups was briefly discussed, and each group will be responsible for planning, development and feedback for their respective group. Members were encouraged to sign up for more than one subcommittee.

Director Gaynor noted that a letter was sent to every member of EMAC as listed in the statute creating the body. However, due to inactivity, contact information was not available for half of those listed. Lieutenant Governor McKee stated his office will assist in writing legislation to fine-tune membership.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Pamela Leary gave a presentation relating to the review process for State Homeland Security Grants (SHSP).

A list of applicants was given to those present, and the evaluation and ranking process was discussed.

Director Gaynor added that this council should be making recommendations regarding recipients.

Below are additional comments from the Director regarding grant processing:

- Grant monies are level-funded and will be for a while, so do not count on increased amounts
- Resources are limited
- Not all requests will be funded
- The intent is all money should be up front and projects completed so the funds are not tied up
- Past funding does not guarantee future funding

- There should be a plan if the funding disappears thereby lending a sustainable project
- SHSP need to align with THIRA
- Plans that include joint efforts with other communities will be given a priority

A suggestion was made that, for the next round of applications, criteria by the EMAC should be set. Members were encouraged to submit criteria to help narrow down the process. Director Gaynor again emphasized the applicant should have the ability to sustain and remain responsible for the project or equipment. He also stated he wants to show transparency by explaining to the applicants why they were denied and possibly help to identify other funding sources.

#### **Review of the RIEMA Strategic Plan:**

During the review of the strategic plan it was noted that EMA has broken off from the National Guard and the Director reports directly to the Governor. Director Gaynor further stated RIEMA needs to establish a vision for the five-year Strategic Plan, adding that the primary goal is to be experts in Emergency Management. A discussion ensued and input from the EMAC members was welcome. Several comments were duly noted by the Director's staff for future consideration. Under his direction, he strived for a short, concise and usable plan.

It was stated that Rhode Island Emergency Management will need to be accredited in order to receive funding. The Director plans to achieve this prior to instituting the five-year Strategic Plan.

A proposal for establishing a State-wide Credentialing was presented by the Director. Massachusetts and Rhode Island are looking to adopt a new program that is well-recognized, self-funded and self-regulated.

#### **Closing Comments:**

Lieutenant Governor McKee thanked Director Gaynor for all his hard work and noted he is here to support the Director's efforts.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Goodrich  
Executive Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor

**Please note:** The PowerPoint presentations and supporting material for this meeting are on file in the Lt. Governor's office and are available upon request.